

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-018
<b>Project Title</b>	Agroforests: a critical resource of sustaining megadiversity in Guatemala
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Guatemala
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	University of Greenwich
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	National Coffee Association (ANACAFE); University of Valle Guatemala (UVG); Foundation for the Defence of Nature (FDN) Technical Office for Biodiversity (OTECBIO), Association of Organic Producers of Polochic (APODIP), and Association of Producers of Palajunoj.
<b>Project Leader</b>	Jeremy Haggar
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	HYR Year 2
<b>Project website</b>	

## 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

Progress is reported by output for the project

### **Output 1. Demonstrate the importance of agroforests in the conservation of biodiversity in lower montane areas of Guatemala.**

The output consists of two main activities. Mapping of forest, coffee agroforest and other land-uses has proceeded for the two study sites – Palajunoj and Polochic. It continues to prove difficult to differentiate between coffee planted under forest shade – but this not unexpected. However, it has been possible to improve the differentiation of coffee with more open shade, and other land-uses in the area. The next step is to estimate how coffee agroforest affect the connectivity between forest patches. This activity was foreseen to be completed by the third quarter of the second year, which should be achieved.

Field sampling of woody plant, ant and hemipteran biodiversity of the four main land-uses at the two project sites has been completed for dry and wet seasons. All insect samples have now been identified (as far as possible - at least to genera and morphospecies) and counted. We are in the process of calculating biodiversity indices and statistical comparison of biodiversity composition between land-uses. This work combines activities 1.2 and 1.3 which were foreseen to be completed by the end of the second year, by which date full report biodiversity report should be available.

### **Output 2. Identify effective support mechanisms for communities and land-owners to conserve biodiverse agroforest systems**

A survey of coffee farmers land-use, farm income, and training and support received for biodiversity conservation was completed in the two study sites (30 farms from one site and 50 from the other) has been completed and analysed, a summary report is pending for the end of the year. A specific study was conducted of farms with private nature reserves and eco-tourism activities and their activities and interests in conserving biodiversity compared to farms that do not participate in these two initiatives. Results were presented to the Private Nature Reserve Association and the Technical Office for Biodiversity of the Council for Protected Areas. This work was completed on time (end of second quarter of second year). Based on this study we

are developing a plan to support the development of eco-tourism among farms in Palajunoj (activity 2.3). In the Polochic study area we have agreed with the communities to support them in presenting a project to obtain public incentives for reforestation and forest conservation.

Training has been given to the organic coffee producer organizations in each zone – Coop Loma Linda and Association of Organic Producers of Polohic (activity 2.2) on organic management of coffee rust, to help farmers combat this disease and reduce the need to abandon organic production and use chemical pesticides.

### **Output 3. Private policies and markets provide greater recognition of biodiversity value of agroforest coffee**

Initial consultations with three coffee roasters in UK who market fair-trade, organic and rainforest alliance certified coffees, indicated they saw limited market demand for coffee promoted on the basis of the biodiversity of the systems where it is produced. Therefore we have not developed any promotional materials to this end (activity 3.1).

We have worked to summarise results from previous studies by the project partners on the economic and environmental benefits of certification. These have been shared with project partners and producer organizations, but not as yet with the certification organizations (activity 3.2); though this activity was only foreseen to start in the second quarter of this year.

Nevertheless there is demand for organic/fair-trade coffee and Rainforest Alliance certified coffee. The limitation for organic/fair-trade coffee is the low productivity; the organic producers the project works with could sell more if they had it. Thus the priority for the project is to help increase production rather than look for new markets (activities 3.3 and 3.4). This has been started with the training and provision of materials for organic control of pests (2.2). For the larger scale farmers of Palajunoj who are not certified, we have agreed to hold discussions with them to explore whether or which certification might be of interest to them.

### **Output 4. Recommendations for public policies that support agroforests as a biodiverse land-use**

Earlier in the year a new Director of the Biodiversity Technical Office of the Council for Protected Areas was appointed. Meetings have been held with the new Director – Jose Luis Echeverria - to explain the project and agreements have been made for the project to support presentations of the new Biodiversity Strategy for Guatemala in the project study areas (activity 4.2). This will also serve for Biodiversity Office staff to know more about the project in the field. The head of the Biodiversity Office also advised us on who to talk with in the Council for Protected Areas about farmers' concerns on the restriction placed on shade tree management in coffee plantations when the farms are declared private nature reserves. This has been a cause for some farms to renounce their status as private nature reserves. This approach is being jointly developed with the Private Nature Reserves Association and the Foundation for the Defence of Nature – a project partner. Thus the project is contributing to the adjustment of public policies to provide incentives for nature conservation without affecting the economic activities on the farm (activity 4.4).

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The project has requested a change in the purpose of the project from: "Improved public and private policies that recognize the role of agroforests in meeting the objectives of the CBD", to "Improved *access for farming families* to public and private policies that recognize the role of agroforests in meeting the objectives of the CBD". This change was proposed in the annual report and a change request presented. The review of the annual report appeared to be favourable to this request. No official response has been received to as to whether the change is purpose has been accepted.

The project has decided to make a strategic change within output 3 from promotion of products in markets to supporting farmers in increasing organic productivity. Although there is little market demand for additional differentiation of coffee based on biodiversity value, there is demand for organic/fair-trade coffee, but insufficient supply. At the same time organic production is threatened by new outbreaks of coffee rust that has led some farmers to abandon organic production. Adjustment to budget lines have been requested and approved to provide funds to organic farmers for limited purchase of organic inputs for coffee rust control.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

**3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No

**3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process.** However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

We would like to have greater clarity on the monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures for Darwin projects. At the meeting for the start of the project (18 months ago) it was indicated that more monitoring and evaluation information would be made available but this has not been provided to date.

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**